Expansion of mobile services in Rajasthan

†942. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSNL's mobile connections in the State of Rajasthan as on 31st December, 2004;

(b) whether the mobile service has already been started in all Districts and Tehsil headquarters in the State of Rajasthan;

(c) the scheme for expansion of the mobile service in the State of Rajasthan;

(d) whether mobile connections from BSNL are available on demand in the State of Rajasthan; and

(e) if not, till when this situation will remain so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) In the State of Rajasthan, the number of mobile connections of BSNL as on 31.12.2004 were 3,76,687.

(b) In the State of Rajasthan, BSNL has provided mobile service in all the 32 Districts and has also covered 202 out of 241 Tehsil headquarters.

(c) to (e) In Rajasthan, BSNL has targeted to provide additional 4 lakh cellular mobile connections during the current financial year. At present, post-paid mobile connection of BSNL is available on demand. However, pre-paid connections are being released by BSNL in phased manner in various cities/towns commensurate with the available radio capacity. With the expansion of network, pre-paid mobile connections will also be available on demand.

Changes in TRAI's recommendations

943. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four-member DoT Committee set up to look into TRAI's recommendations with regard to spectrum rejected the demands for auction of 3G spectrum citing previous experience in telecom licensing;

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†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.